# GENERAL DUCROT

An Interview with the Soldier Who Would Have Prevented Sedan.

THIERS--THE PARTIES--THE ARMY.

How Napoleon III. Prepared for the Contest with Prussia.

"WE MUST FIGHT AGAIN."

State of France as Seen by a Commanding General.

EUROPEAN ALLIANCES NECESSARY.

Safety Only in Restoration of the Monarchy or the Empire.

GOVERNMENT MUST FIT THE PEOPLE.

President Thiers Proposing a Coup d'Etat for Paris.

HIS STRATEGY A FAILURE.

He Will Probably Prolong His Term Till His Death-After Which Napoleon IV., Henry V. or an Orleans Prince-No Stable French Republic.

British journalists sneer contemptuously at in-terviewing as a feature of American journalism, except when they happen to find the custom conenient for themselves. It seems to be thought in England that a man locked up in a sub-editor's room in Fleet street or Printing House square can know more of anything under the sun than the man who visits the spot where history may be Cambridge A. M. who knows ancient Rome well and modern France very little, writes like a dabster on the politics of the latter, with no other material than a large share of religious and parliamentary prejudice and a few letters of our own, badly translated from much-abused French papers, and the fatal habit of writing his column a day blinds him as to the quantity of nonsense he puts forth. My present line of action is to "interview everybody, from the peasant and his donkey to the prince and his lions, and send off the material as I get it," and this seems to me to promise more real enlightenment on the state of thought in France-and it is that out of which the future must grow-than any other plan I am acquainted with; and I believe that American journalism is right in its faith in interviewing, despite all sneering to the contrary. General Ducrot seemed a person whose opinions it vould be valuable to know, considering the miliibilities of the situation. The remarkable teness of his personal character, the position be occupied during the last war, as well as that he ccupies new, both as a Deputy in the Assembly of Verseilles, and as the Commander-in-Chief of an ndent army corps, and, finally, the rumors spread that he intended to make a detat rumors which had been officially ald to by M. Gambetta in the tribune of the Asembly—everything suggested that a conversation with the General would be most interesting and instructive just now. The difficulty was to get at bim. Happily, however, a friend of mine was in great favor with him, and he soon got me a pertion was where to find him, for he has several residences, and is scarcely ever to be found at visitor more than a few minutes' time. After seeking him in vain in several places in turn, find he had just started on a tour of duty among the several posts of his command, I finally found him spending a few days at the chateau of Chazelles, in the Nièvre, the property of his father-in-law, M. Dechamp, where he was enjoying a short visit with his family. There, in one of the quietest family residences of France, during a long evening, I have just listened to an extempore lec-ture on French politics and French military affairs, delivered by a general whose name was in every-body's mouth all through the civilized world but a

I state these circumstances because I consider that the kind manner in which the General received me and the willingness with which he spoke were compliments he paid to the American

ne personal favor to accord to me.

With a view to give something like an ac-General expressed on that evening, I must tions separately. But before entering upon either a few words about the General's family may be of some interest. They will render the the evening was spent in a general conversation, In which Mme. Ducrot and her father took almost as lively a part as the General himself, and to which the presence of the children and of the vil-lage priest and the crackling of the blazing wood old-fashioned fireplace gave much more the aspect of a quiet Winter evening in the country than an interview between a commander-indent. The General himself, in his brown jacket and his high boots, looked quite like a not notice even that everlasting bit of red ribbon in his button-hole, without which no Frenchman of position can ever be seen. The only circumstance that marred the cheerful aspect of the picture was that Mme. Ducrot, as well as her four daughters, were in deep mourning, the family having quite recently lost a girl of eight years, the death of her to leave her hasband's property, a few miles from Chazelies, and to come for a stay to her father. To remain at Germiny, where her daughter did and was buried, seemed unberable to the lady, and all the apparent reservedness of her nature was of no avail against the tears which filled her eyes when she mentioned her loss. There are, however, six children still alive to console the mother, the youngest scarcely two years old, having to the shots of the enemy. The war has, on the whole, affected the family very severely. A brother of Mmc. Ducrot, a young captain of infantry, was killed at Metz, and his death caused the death of her mother. The vicissitudes to which the General was exposed, through no fault of his own, at worth, Sean and Paris are well known in America; but the degree in which they affected both him and his wife could be hardly realized. I lass whim a couple of days before the battle of two the both bim and his wife could be hardly realized. I lass whim a couple of days before the battle of two the heads of the heads of the shots of the annual that the shots of the shots of the enemy. The war has, on the whole, affected the samply very severely. A brother of Mmc. Ducrot, a young captain of infantry, was killed at Metz, and his death caused the death of her mother. The vicissitudes to which the General was exposed, through no fault of his own, at worth, Sean and Paris are well known in America; but the degree in which they affected both him and his wife could be hardly realized. I lass whim a couple of days before the battle of two the shots of the which had so much affected the lady as to compel her to leave her husband's property, a few miles

wanted to take a prompt resolution with reference to French political affairs General Ducrot maj wanted to take a prompt, res sily turn out to be that man. His lady se to be rather inclined to represent the legitimist, and consequently to a certain extent the cierical sentiment in the family; but he did not appear to me as sharing to any great extent her sympathics

in that respect.

ENNEY V. AND THE OBLEANS PRINCES.

We spoke of the Bordeaux days.

He said that Henri V. had a very fair chance the said that the only object the object that the only object that t the throne of France then and that the only object lage prices present—the probable increase of cleri-cal indecace in cavit matters. But he supposed that had the Cricans Princes been wise enough fully to submit to the only legitimate representative of old French royalty they would naturally have got a moral inducace over the Count de Chambord and might have easily softened whatever there would have been extravagant or extreme in the Count's own as well as his party's personal tondencies. "The country would certainly have gained," said the General, "for it would have had a stable form of government by this time, instead of the uncertainty we have now. I am much indebted to the Duo d'Aumale, under whose orders I served in Algeria, and I have a great feeling of respect for him ; but I have several times within the last two years irankly told him my opinion concerning his own and the whole of the Orleans family's political attitude. There cannot be the alightest doubt that if France is to be a kingdom the only king possible is Henri &. By an unconditional acknowledgment of his rights the Orleans Princes would have established their own right of inheritance to him, and would have had the whole country with them, representing, as they would have done, the liberal elements of the regime. But as soon as they undertook to bargain with the Count de Chambord they placed themseives on a revelutionary and democratic ground, upon which they will be always beaten by the representatives of Bonapartism. The Orleans lamily has just as little strictly legal rights to the throne as the Bonapartianily. The little they have done for the country is quite forgotten, while everything the Emperor did in the way of improving the conditions of our laboring classes and in increasing general prosperity is quite fresh in the memory of all.

The vast majority of the nation does not care about strictly pariismentary forms of government, the only prestige the Orleans princes can claim to have. These forms are almost as strange and suspiciouslooking to the country people as the present are; while their hiertheoretical value, worked, satisfactority, and what is still more important, got the mass of the present generation familiar with them. We, want peace and prosperity to recover our strength Egala; we must regain Europe's confidence for the moral influence over the Count de Chambord might have easily softened whatever there would

them. We, want peace and prosperity to recover our strength Egain: we must regain Europe's confidence for the sake of making alliances. That is all we want's present, and for this no new combination can be of any use. Give us the ancient French monarchy, or else let us have our more modern Empire back again. No sort of intermediate course will answer the purposes we must all have in view, and it told the Duc d'aumale several times, that if my personal sympathies were to be sought for they could be found only on one of these two sides, although, if I am asked to do so, I will serve France under any order of things, as I am dening now."

This and similar topicy were touched upon during the whole of the evening, the conversation constantly passing from current events to general views. The resignation of the Roman Ambassador (M. de Beurgoing) was freely commented on by Mme. Ducrot, her father and the curé. Besides, M. de Bourgoing being a cousin of the lady, the obvious sympathies of the company toward the Pope Iuliy accounted for the importance statached to the resignation of the Ultramontane plenipotentiary. But here again the General did not seem to insist much upon the purely clerical aspect of the question. What he reproached M. Thiers in this case for was that the occurrence created a new complication in the foreign affairs of France and that he made the sacrifice of M. de Bourgoing, who was one of his (M. Thiers') oldest personal friends. All these discussions had a considerable interest to me, as showing the state of prench grain and the cure taking it for a signal to go home too. I remained there alone with the General, sitting in an old-fashioned easy chair, by the side of a bright fire, and listening to him for at least a couple of hours more without scarcely ever having need to ask him a question, so full seemed he of thoughts on the present state of French affairs and so willing to give utterance to them. This is, as nearly as possible, what I heard from him:—

A Government we have at present or any ot

person to encourage republican institutions? As to the Americans, I think them too wise and too business-like to mix themselves up in European politics. If we had a war with England that would be another question; they might then have sided with us. But as long as we shall have to fight with the Germans we shall be compelled to look for an European alliance or to undertake the task single-handed. This is my starting point, and it compels me to wish, independently from any personal sympathies and with the sole desire of welfare to France, for a strong and stable government that would have had some roet in the country at large, and would, consequently, guarantee peace and prosperity at home and irlendship and confidence abroad. I do not care whether it be the ancient kingdom or the empire, but outside of these two forms of government I see nothing except misery and numiliation for my country."

A PHIENDLY CHAT WITH PRESIDENT THIERS.
I had some time back a friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for we have sometimes friendly talk with M. Thiers, for whith the sale friendly talk with M. Thiers, for whith the sale friendly talk with M. Thiers and myself. We talked of various matters, and among ether things, effocuses, about his position one one at his freplace except himself, Mme. Thiers had almost permanent cr Right, and I must say that even the most extreme of them would prove more manageable than any of the leading men of the Centres, had only M. Thiers frankly sided with them. They are nearly all very rich. They would refuse office even if offered, but they have their creed, which they will abjure under no circumstances. I have really often wondered what it is that makes M. Thiers stick to the Left; for a radical he himself certainly is not. How do you think, as an outsider, the fact is to be accounted for?"

A SUGGRETION OF FEAR.

at Tours and myself here; only Marshal MacMahon has five army corps under him in Paris and north of it, while each of us has only one corps. But his position is much more comfortable in respect of politics than ours is. We have a great responsibility, and are constantly attacked either by the one of by the other side. For instance, at the time of the Gronoble speech, the government apprehended some disturbances in the South, and the Ministry at Marseilles sent certain orders to General La Cadle, commanding the division quartered at Bourges, as it sent orders to other generals. Among these orders was one directing them to have a given quantity of carridges ready per man. This order was issued in due course by General La Cadle throughout his division on the 28th of Novasber, while I arrived only on the 28th. Still it was everywhere spread that the order was my personal order, and that the carridges were to be used in a movement on Paris, and M. Gambetts referred to it even in his speech of December 14. The fact is that I am very much disliked by the radical portion of the population of the region under my command. As soon as the rumor was spread here that I was about to be appointed they even got up a little deputation to ask M. Thiers to send them some one else instead of me. The Mayor of Bourges, for instance, a gentleman of a very radical turn of mind, cannot stand me at all. He is a barrister by profession, and undertook ene day the defence of a journalist whom I caused to be brought before the tribunal, and who was condemned to 2,000 francs fine and six months' imprisonment. Now, the barrister, having become a Mayor, wants to retailate upon me for his having lost the case he decended. Under such and similar circumstances is there any wonder that most absurd rumors are spread about my projecting a comp defact or intending to march on Paris "

The General spoke with such bitterness of the feelings he thought he imprised here the provinces under his command that I considered it desirable to reassure him at leas

was to be carried on; but Marshal MacMahon was my superior, and I had, therefore, no advice or instructions to give, but had to receive them, and some were such as to show me piainly enough the abyss we were hurrying lato. The same, or nearly the same, thing occurred at Sedan. When the Marshal was wounded I had to take the chief command, and at once ordered a general retreat towards Mezleres. It was the only means of saving the army. The heights in front of that town offered us a strong position. We could fairly fight there the Germans, or, at all events, prevent, by means of a comparatively small, body of troops, their advance, and thus secure the retreat of the main army. But haif an hour after I had given that order General Wimplen sent me word that he was the senior officer; that 'a victory was wanted at any price,' and that he therefore revoked my orders. And so we got the victory.

word that he was the senior officer; that 'a victory was wanted at any price,' and that he therefore revoked my orders. And so we got the victory.

At Paris, again, I was constantly ordered to do things which I could not approve, and the responsibility for which was invariably thrown upon me. It would be impossible now to recapitulate all that I went through then, and it will be enough to say that, as much as you were deceived at the Army of the Loire by the official assurances that I had come out of Paris and was but a day's march from you, so was I deceived by the same official assurances that the Army of the Loire was steadily advancing and would meet me as soon as I had come out of the fortifications of Paris. And the worst is, perhaps, that I may some day be again in the same position of being compelled to do what I consider to be foolish and to have to answer for the results as if they were my own faults.

M. THIRRS AS A STRATEGIST.

M. THIERS AS A STRATEGIST.

M. THIERS, for instance, is constantly mixing himself up in military matters and giving orders which make him perfectly ridiculous. I have told you already how he insisted upon my throwing 30,000 men under the guns of the Fort d'Issy. He would not give in, and, happily enough, I was not compelled to obey him. But the same thing might have happened under less favorable circumstances, and, had the troops been massacred, it would again have been my fault. And the best point is that the obstinate little President was nitimately compelled to accept my view, for the Fort d'Issy was taken possession of before any attack on Paris had begun. The same thing is now going on with reference to army management. M. Thiers thinks he knows everything better than military men do, and wants to have the upper, hand in every department of government, to regulate every littlest detail of military organization. No one appreciates the marveilons capacity and vast knowledge of the President was not one appreciates the marveilons capacity and vast knowledge of the President

SENTIMENT OF THE ARMY.

the same thing is going on everywhere in nearly every department of army management.

It is marked to the General that he seemed to take a gloomy vie won the present state of military affairs in France.

"Well," was his answer, "all I can say is that we have a very good law of military requisiment now; but we have done nothing for military organization, and I do not believe we shall be able to do much as long as M. Thiers will frame himself everything concerning the army."

EMPORE THE WAR.

The conversation then turned to the mismanagement and bad organization of the army under the Empire, which can have no interest for American readers at present, and which the General concerning the trongest possible terms, passing subsequently to the outbreak of the war and the mismanes recently aliaded to by the Duke de Gramont.

"Wint the Duke has secret these the General cont."

chrown at M. de Gramont --- manely, that his retrospective statement is wrong, because it puts the Austrian Cabinet into useless difficulties with Prussia and alienates sympathy from France. But we need not go as far as vienna, added the General, to find identical facts. When I commanded at Strasbourg the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstast asked me several times to come across the Rhine to visit him. I was rejuctent to accept the invitation until I saw the Emperor's answer. And so I went; and in the long tak I ind with the Grand Duke in a little country house (he was aircast) too much arraid of Prussia to speak of such matters at his palace) he said to me that here could not be the slightest doubt as to the side on which his sympathies, as well as those of Wurtemburg and Havaria, would be in case of a French centilet with Prussia. The only doubtful joint was Baston. But you must hurry to cross the Rhine, said the Grand Duke, 'or if the Emperor is slow in his preparations the whole of South Germany, now thoroughly hostife to Prussia, will be taken into the great German current without our being able to reals. I sent in to the Emperor all the information I could get. I showed him that with 30,000 men entering German territory from Alsace and 30,000 more from Lorraine, having a reserve that would bring the army to 100,000, we could have, in a lew days, the whole of South Germany with us. But that ought to have been done a twelvemouth before we were routed at Woerth, and I have already told you what the Emperor and his Cabinet Noir did with all my letters and suggestions."

SOLDIERLY REGRET AND WISH TO TRY AGAIN.

It was nearly midnight now, and the General seemed so grieved whenever the conversation turked to past events, which seemed, however, constantly to absorb him, and to which he constantly returned, that I got up from my chair to take leave of him. But he still talked of Sectan, of hill of deep sorrow for the past, and se thoroughly absorbed by the single, all-overpowering idea of another fight with the Germans

#### LITERARY CHIT-CHAT.

JOHANN STRAUSS has his "Reminiscenses of America" completed, and Shepard & Gill, of Boson, will publish the book.

Vose's long promised treatise on railway con-

THE HISTORY OF IRELAND, by Father Thibaut, S. J., of St. Joseph's College, Troy, is to be printed by

Dickson's Analysis of Blackstone's Commentaries, lately published by Rees Weish, of Philadelphia, is a work for members of the legal profession and all persons of literary pursuits who desire an aid in and of study. It is, as it were, "a map of the science of the law."

THAT EXPERIENCED TRAVELLER and author, E. G. Squier, is understood to be engaged on a work of careful research and full information about

EARL RUSSELL'S new book, "Rise and Progress of the Christian Religion in the West of Europe," is nearly ready for publication ORIGINAL TRANSLATIONS of Mme. George Sand's

three charming little books for children are to be published by Estes & Laurist, Beston, JOHN MURRAY has published a volume of epitaphs

taphs Selected for General Study and Application." A RICH CALIFORNIAN named Lick has given to Thomas Paine. One-half the amount is to be expended in lectures and publications in honor of

this iconoclast of the revolution. T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS announce for immediate publication a new novel by Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, entitled "Lord Hope's Choice." THE LONDON Graphic is said to be growing into

one of the wealthiest journalistic properties in the

GUSTAVE DORE and Blanchard Jerrold are about to do for the modern Lutetia (Paris) that which they have recently done for the modern Babylon, and the illustrated work is to be published simultaneously in the two capitals.

MR. JAMES GRANT has written, as a supplement to his "History of the Newspaper Press" (which was a bitter bad one), an account of the "Rise and Progress of the Saturday Review," which will appear in few days.

THE MEMBERS of the bookselling fraternity who deal in oid books have diminished in London nearly one-half in the last twenty years. This is mainly owing to the exhaustion of the commodity dealt in.
THE BRITISH WAR OFFICE has published a notable book on "The Armed Strength of Russia," trans-

lated from the German. ANOTHER CLASSICAL member of Parliament has undertaken the translation of Juvenal. His name is J. D. Lewis, and it is to be hoped that he will succeed better than did Dryden, Gifford and Madan. AT A RECENT PUBLIC SALE in London a copy of Smith's History of Virginia, 1627, was purchased for the extraordinary price of £1,046. Though not entirely perfect, it was fortunately on large paper. one of the lour or five copies known to exist in that state. It had been preserved in an old country house library, and will now take its place among the gems of the great New York Library of Books

of America, founded by Mr. Lenox.

The Absolute Necessity of the Greek language to university honors has long been maintained in English and American colleges. But now comes the University of London and opens its degrees in science, medicine and law to students who have not acquired a knowledge of Greek. The universities in France, Germany and Italy adopted this

policy years ago.

LES DEPRAVES IS the name of Rochefort's new novel, which the Minister of Public Instruction had the depravity to prohibit in France. An Armenian comic newspaper, bearing the

name of Punch, has been suspended for two months for ridiculing the Armenian Patriarch. Mr. W. Davies is preparing a book called 'The Pilgrimage of the Tiber from its Mouth to its ource." The course of the Tiber has never been completely explered, and no account has been given of it in its entirety, either in Italian or English. The pictures given by local historians of the mediaval condition of some of the Tiberine towns and country will be new to most English readers. The chapter upon the popular songs of Central Italy will also probably afford an insight into a quite fresh field of literature.

#### THE ARREST OF PAYMASTER'S CLERK BO-GART. NEW YORK, March 29, 1873.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD: Having noticed in your paper of this date, that "Naval Paymaster Bogart" has been arrested in San Francisco, Cal., I beg leave to state that Mr. Rogart never was honored with a commission in the United States Nayy as Paymaster, he was simply a Paymaster's clerk on the United States Steamer Verniont, and absconded with about \$30,000 government unds intrusted to his care. By publishing the foregoing, you will correct a false statement and much oblige

A PAYMASTER, United States Navy.

### JAPAN.

The Proposed Imperial Mission to China and What Is Hoped from the Diplomacy.

Peruvian Belations to the Government and Popular Fear of Serious Consequences-Washington Cabinet Instructions-Religious Toleration—Project of a Repeal of the Law of Execution of Foreigners-Plan of Postal Treaties with the Outside Mations—Twenty-three Lives Lost by Accident.

The imperial mission to China has not yet left Japan. As I told you in my last, Soyoshims, now acting as Prime Minister, is to be at the head of this g as Prime Minister, is to be a selected in the selection, with the rank of Minister Pienipotentiary. General Legendre is to and Envoy Extraordinary. General Lege go as chief adviser, with the rank of Assistan Envoy. The reasons for the delay of the mission care about sending away the mission until the pected, and about which doubts will exist as to whether that mission is to come with peace or war considerable opposition has developed itself during the last month from some high strength as to endanger the departure of the mission. Mr. De Long has interested himself to some extent in its success, and is doing his best to smooth the difficulties. But the fact that an sufficient to raise an opposition from those Japanese who receive their inspirations from the rep-

BELATIONS TO PERU.

The Peruvian question is a source of great un-

that they attempt to put upon their actions in the Maria Luz ship case they feel convinced that they ranted them. True, they were openly backed up by the British Chargé d'Affaires, and secretly by the American Chargé. But it strikes me that the Englishman merely used the Japanese as a cat's paw to pull out of the fire chestnuts which were so hot that

the English themselves did not dare to touch them. In a humanitarian view of the case the action of the Japanese was undoubtedly all praiseworthy; but said action is almost certain to undergo the flery ordeal of an examination in which the sentimental side will remain in the background. The letters from the Lima correspondent of the Herald in relation to this question have been republished here, and the indignant feeling of the Peruvians or account of the action of Japan has rather disturbed the complaisance with which the government at first viewed the action of their officials. As far as I can learn the mission of Captain Garcia in the Independencia is altogether a peaceful one. Undoubtedly he will demand compensation for the unwarrantable interference of the

Japanese in the voyage of the Maria Luz. Mr. De

Long has received instructions from his own gov-ernment at Washington to so far aid the Peruvian favorable and friendly reception for him from the Japanese, but the same despatch concludes with Japanese, but the same despatch concludes with instructions that "Mr. De Long must do nothing from which the Japanese might injer that either he or the American government looks with any favor upon the coole trade." This concluding paragraph might have been left out. It appears to imply that Mr. De Long's former action tended to induce the belief that he had defended the Infamous traffic as carried on between Macac and Peru. Nething was further from the intention of the American Minister. But while he, alike with all other foreigners, fully appreciates the horrors of the coolie trade. As a Minister he had to take into consideration the responsibilities attendant upon the individual action of one government. Besides, he was really bound to act as the representative of Peru, according to instructions previously received from Washington. Notwithstanding the fact, however, that he advised the Japanese government to a contrary course to which they took, the Japanese government fully appreciate the motives of Mr. De Long, and he has received an assurance from the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the Peruvian Envoy will be received with all due respect and in a friendly spirit.

RECAL OF DIPLOMATISTS.

Kido and Okubo, two of the Vice Ambassadors now with the Japanese Embassy, of which Twakuru is the chief, have been recalled. The reasons for this action are not entirely clear, but I presume that it is considered that their presence at home is necessary on account of the want of harmony now prevailing in the different departments. Besides, it seems to be now decided that the revision of the treates is to take place in Japan and not in Europe. And, as the principal countries have already been visited the continued presence of these two officers is no longer neces-

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CHRISTIANITY TOLERATED.

An order has recently been issued by the Daijok-wan (the imperial government) to the Governors of the different cities and provinces, instructing them that hereafter the edicts against Christianity are not to be enforced, and the same are to be removed from the public edict boards. This is peculiarly Japanese. Of course the order amounts to toleration of Christianity. And yet the Daijok-wan refused to absolutely repeal the laws against Christianity or to pass a positive law that hereafter all religions are to be tolerated. But they have taken this rather torthous course of declaring that the said edicts are still the laws of the land, but until further orders are not to be enforced.

have taken this rather tortuous course of declaring that the said edicts are still the laws of the land, but until further orders are not to be enforced.

A proposition has beed made by the Japanese government to the different foreign representatives to open the whole country of Japan to trade and residence for loreigners, provided said foreigners will subject themselves to Japanese law. The Japanese promise to establish judicial tribunals throughout the Empire; guarantee that no foreigner shall be subject to corporal punishment, and limit their penal authority over foreigners to a fine of \$300, or to imprisonment not to exceed twelve months. On the face of it this looks very liberal on the part of the Japanese; but it is questionable, first, whether the Ministers have power to accept such a proposition without the consent of their respective governments, as their doing so would be tantamount to making a new treaty; and, secondly, whether it would be advisable to surrender the exterioral privileges of foreign residents, even to the limited extent asked by the Japanese. It must be borne in mind that the Japanese are asyetenticial privileges of foreign residents, even to the limited extent asked by the Japanese. It must be borne in mind that the Japanese are asyetenticial privileges of foreign residents, even to the limited extent asked by the Japanese are asyetenticial privileges of foreign residents; even to the limited extent asked by the Japanese of the Europe of America, and it will be a long time before they can establish a judicial system that will be acceptable to foreigners. The preposition originated with Count Fe, the Italian Minister. His object in making this suggestion to the Japanese government was to enable the Italian silk and silkworms' eggs buyers to go into the interior and purchase directly from the producer. As these men would only be there for a shert time in each year it would make very little difference to the Japanese have judicial system that will be acceptable to foreign for the provis PLAN OF FOREIGN COMMUNION.

ans gentieman its gold medal. Is there not such a society in America.

As usual, during the Winter, Yokahama has been visited two or three times by the fire flend, and, upon one occasion, with fatal results. About three o'clock on the morning of the 28th uit. a fire broke out in a building occupied as a hotel and so rapid was the progress of the flames that the people has scarcely time to escape. As it was, one man, as engineer named Joseph Hyde, an American citizes of Irish birth, was burned in his bed, as was also a Japanese male servant. One man, in jumping, broke both his legs and wrists, and the proprietress also had to make a leap for life and broke three of her ribs in dong so. Others suffered minor injuries. Several other fires have occurred during the month, both in the foreign settlement and the native towns, entailing considerable loss of property.

#### APRIL FOOLS' DAY.

To-day is an anniversary which brings with if embrance of practical jokes played on unsus-ous persons by individuals who have nothing its festivals in every clime and in every land where civilization has a footing. This is the day known to the Romans as the "Feast of Foots," or Feste Stultorum, although it was cele

for hen's teeth, and silly fancies like these will help to beguile young people of both sexes. In France, although the practice of ringing secre bells and breaking door knockers off is unknown yet they have an April Fool's Day, and the person who sustains the burden of a joke is called a poisson d'April or "April mackerei"—the latter fish being supposed to be the most unsuspicious that swims the waters. It is understood that Brian Borohime was one of the most practical jokers of his time, and many a poor, belated Danish chieftain was "sold" by the Irish King in a way that showed his keen relish of fun. Good Friday, April 14 (old style), would now be April 1 in the calendar, and it was on that memorable day that Brian played the heaviest joke of his life on the Danes at Clontarf, the battle resulting in the total expussion of the Northern robbers from Ireland. Partly the joke was against Brian, for he lost his life on that day, his head having been ripped open by a Danish battle axe.

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We have suggested one erigin of this day. Twenty others might be given, every one stronger than that preceding it. For instance, one of the most accredited is that on one occasion Louis XIII, held in strict watch, in the chateau of Nanci, a prince of Lorraine, who had the ili-iortune seriously to offend him. The prisoner one night escaped the notice of his guards, and saved himself on the 1st of April by swimming across the river Meuse, on which the people of Lorraine said that Louis had held a poisson in his custody. It is, however, probable that the custom of giving a man something to do, that we may afterwards generously laugh at him for his pains, has a beginning further sack than the age of Louis XIII, and were it not that the corruption of the word passion into poisson is rather forced, we should follow that derivation. By this, the mockery of Christ by the Jews is allueed to, which is supposed to have happened in April. The sending from Annas to Cataphas, from Caiaphas to Pliate, from Pliate to Herod, and from Herod back again to Pliate, is well known, and appears to have had no other design than to give useless trouble. Another sacred origin of the custom, without reference to the French name, is the mistake of Noah, who sent the dove out of the ark before the waters had absted, on the first day of the month among the Hebrews which answers to our April. To perpetuate the memory of the deliverance of eight navored souls from the otherwise universal destruction of the human race, it was thought afterwards fit to punish those forgetting it by sending them on some—to use the words of the Spectator's landiady—sleeveless errand, similar to that ineffectual message upon which the bird was sent by the patriarch.

## THE ALLEGED M'SWEEGAN HOMICIDE.

Coroner Herrman's Investigation-In-

Yesterday afternoon the fatal tenement house row at No. 48 Scammel street, on the 24th of February last, in which Bridget McSweegan, the victim, received only a scalp wound, was the sub-ject of investigation before Coroner Herrman, at the City Hall. The prisoner, a one-eyed, vicious looking woman, was present, and looked as though the liquid poison in which she had so long indulged to excess was well out of her system. twice during the examination of witnesses the prisoner exhibited her malignity by calling Mrs. Howard a har, and it was found nece an officer beside her to keep her quiet. Below will

an officer beside her to keep her quiet. Below will be lound the main points in the testimony elioited before the Coroner and the jury.

Mary Howard, of 48 Scammel street, deposed that she heard Mary McNamee and Bridget Mc-Sweegan having some words in their room on the first floor, and her son requested her to go dewn and see what was the matter, but the witness did not go down; witness says both the women were intoxicated, and on the night in question the prisoner's husband was arrested; the deceased bearded with the witness, but paid her nothing; deceased worked sometimes; she did not live with her husband. During the time the witness was giving her testimony the prisoner became excited and gave Mrs. Howard the lie, and repeated the remark.

John Howard, a lad twelve years of age, son of the previous his mother and deceased had a quarrel and struck each other with wooden hoops.

John McNamee, the little son of the prisoner, was called to the stand, and deposed that deceased came into his mother's room drunk one night and called his mother a w-e and him a bastard; his mother picked up a hoop and struck Mrs. McSweegan in the face with it; the prisoner had struck her with a bottle.

Officer Moran, of the Thirteenth precinct, testified that he found deceased lying in the hallway of house 48 Scammel street, in a state of insensibility on the morning of the 24th of February, and took her te the station house; after partially reviving deceased said that prisoner had struck her on the head with a bottle; deceased was inoxicated at the time she was found, and had a cut en the side of the head.

On admission to the hospital deceased told the surgeon that a man had struck her, but she did not give his name.

Dr. Cushman testified that deceased did from erysipelas caused by the wound on the head; said wound being received in some manner to us unknown, at 48 Scammel street, on or about the 24th day of February, 1873."

Coroner Herrman, believing that a further incarceration would prove beneficial to the confirmed inebriat

### INFANTICIDE AT SING SING.

Singular Disclosures-Another Corpse Discovered in a Trunk.

The churchgoing residents of Sing Sing village are at present shocked at some scandaious disclosures which have come to light in their midst within the past couple of days. Last Saturday while some children were playing near the public school, they found partially covered in a heap of ashes the remains of a fully developed, newly born male infant, which had apparently lain there only a day or two. Coroner Bassett having been notified, empanelled a jury and on a post-mortem examination of the body marks of violence were plainly discernable on

a jury and on a post-mortem examination of the body marks of violence were plainly discernable on the throat, leaving no doubt that the child had been murdered. A verdict to that effect "by some person unknown!" was accordingly rendered.

Conjecture being still rife as to who the unnatural mother may be, information was yesterday received by Justice Hyatt setting forth that Mary Jackson, a mulatto girl, aged fitteen, living with her inother in Central avenue, had given birth to an infant some three or four weeks ago, since which time it had mysterieusly disappeared. That official at once issued a warrant for the arrest of the girl Jackson, and an officer proceeded to her home for the purpose of appreheading her. On arriving at the house the officer displayed his warrant and intimated the nature of the crime of which she was suspected. The girl became thoroughly alarmed, and hastily replied that the baby found in the ash-heap could not belong to her, as hers was up stairs in the trunk. On ascending to an upper from the body of a colored infant, wrapped up in a bundle of old clothing, was found, and in an advanced state of decomposition. She insisted that the child was still-born, and as it was impossible to find any marks of violence on the remains, the Coroner's Jury which investigated the case came to the conclusion that the infant had been "found dead." The mother, in whose sleepting apartment the body had lain rotting for four weeks was upen discharged from custodia.